

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Biweekly Period Ending October 7, 2000

Phoenix Metro Area

Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities

Three proposed power plants in Maricopa County, which had already been approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission, have **come under fire** from a consumer advocacy group. The Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest has filed suit in Maricopa County Superior Court to stop construction of plants planned by **Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Duke Energy Co., and Panda Energy International**. The suit alleges that the commission failed to weigh the environmental impact of the plants against the need for power. During the past couple of years, 13 power plants have been proposed in Arizona, with nine of them in Maricopa County. Much of the power generated from these plants is expected to be used by out-of-state customers (commercial and residential).

DHL Airways Inc. has **opened** an expanded national **customer service center and a global data center** at the Papago Park Center in Tempe. The \$26 million facilities are **expected to employ more than 500 people** by 2010. DHL Airways is the U.S. subsidiary of DHL Worldwide Express, a global package-delivery service.

Tucson Metro Area

Manufacturing

Integrated-circuit maker **Analog Devices Inc.** is **hiring an unspecified number** of people for a **planned Tucson design and test facility**. Although local officials were unaware of the proposed Tucson operation, a spokesman for Analog said there would be a **significant**

number of positions at all levels and in various disciplines, according to *The Arizona Daily Star*. The Norwood, Mass.-based company, which designs and produces linear, digital, and mixed-signal integrated circuits used in analog- and digital-processing applications, is said to be hiring people with skills in CAD (computer-aided design), test engineering, and applications engineering. For more information, call Tennen Personnel Services at (416) 663-0610, ext. 221.

Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities

Tucson-based **Opto Power Corp.**, which supplies several types of high-power semiconductor lasers to the telecommunications and semiconductor manufacturing industries, is in a **major growth mode**. Opto Power, which has 200 employees, **added 50 positions in 2000** and expects to continue that type of growth. A recent corporate realignment by Opto Power's parent company, Spectra-Physics of Mountainview, Calif., could also provide additional opportunities.

Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

A group of primarily Arizona investors has put up \$6 million to start a new bank in Tucson. **Canyon Community Bank will open in October** in the former Norwest Bank building at Oracle and Magee roads. No information was available on the number of people that will be hired.

Trade

One of Tucson's oldest malls is undergoing a massive transformation that will turn it into **eight to 10 Spanish-style, mini-shopping plazas**, with amenities such as restaurants, outdoor space for performing arts and exhibits, an outdoor market, artists' studios, and possi-

bly a public library or government offices. Because of the overhaul, **El Con Mall**, on East Broadway between Jones and Dodge boulevards, will be appropriately **renamed The Plazas at El Con**. The three-year, \$50 million project will also include construction of a **new 123,000-square-foot Home Depot**, remodeling of a 140,000-square-foot building formerly occupied by Dillard's as space for a food court and other entertainment facilities, and a gourmet grocery store. Current tenants Robinsons-May, Montgomery Ward, J.C. Penney, Firestone, and a 20-screen movie theater will remain part of the development.

Balance of State

Manufacturing

A **concrete manufacturing plant** and about **100 permanent jobs** will be coming to the Interstate 40 Industrial Corridor, **20 miles southwest of Kingman**, thanks to a vote by Mohave County supervisors. The Board of Supervisors approved a resolution allowing the county's Industrial Development Authority to issue \$20 million in bonds to build the 75,000-square-foot **Enviroc Inc. plant**. In addition to the permanent jobs, **400 construction jobs** will be **needed for about a year** when work begins in November. The plant, which was located in Korea, was disassembled and is being rebuilt in Arizona.

Services

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors has **bailed out**, at least temporarily, **Southeast Arizona Medical Center of Douglas** and its **165 employees**. The hospital has been in bankruptcy since 1998 and the Iowa-based corporation that manages it, Community Healthcare of Mid-America, has been unable to come up with the money to buy it. An alternative group led by a Douglas doctor is attempting to purchase the hospital, and the county has agreed to help — loaning \$150,000 for a cash reserve; subordinating the hospital's lease — in an effort to keep the facility from closing.

Miscellaneous

A federal task force has chosen **Nogales, Ariz.**, as one of four Mexican-border areas that will **receive special funding for economic development activities**. Since NAFTA was enacted, a number of border communities in Arizona, California, and Texas have suffered a decline in economic activity. As part of a pilot project, Nogales will receive funds to: upgrade highways to improve international commerce; expand the Mariposa Port of Entry to ease traffic at border crossings; enlarge the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico to handle growth across the border; and open a skills center for job training.

Statewide

Services

As of mid-September, the **Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association** had **more than 700 jobs listed** on its employment web site, **www.azhealthjobs.com**. Mayo Clinic Scottsdale had about one-fourth of the jobs listed (172), with Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (72), Desert Samaritan Medical Center (51), Yuma Regional Medical Center Inc. (41), and Mesa Lutheran Hospital (36) rounding out the top five.

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